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RÉSPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Group Art Unit: 3677 Examiner: Lugo, C.

Atty. Ref.: USUI-12N

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Shoichiro Usui

Appl. No.

09/731,170

Filed

December 6, 2000

For

HIGH-PRESSURE METAL PIPE HAVING CONNECTING HEAD AND

METHOD OF FORMING THE CONNECTING HEAD AS WELL AS

SLEEVE WASHER FOR THE CONNECTING HEAD

Box AF Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 RECEIVED
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AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Sir:

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Official Action of May 23, 2002. Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 5 as follows:

5. A high-pressure pipe assembly, comprising a metal pipe having opposite first and second ends, a connecting head adjacent said first end, said connecting head having a seat surface flared outwardly from said first end and a cylindrical surface extending from said seat surface away from said first end, said cylindrical surface having a selected outside diameter, a cylindrical body extending from said connecting head toward said second end, said cylindrical body having an outside diameter less than said selected